



# The Confederate

B. K. MCRAE, A. M. GORMAN  
EDITORS.

All letters on business of the Office, to be directed to A. M. GORMAN & Co.

WEDNESDAY, May 18, 1864.

Office of THE CONFEDERATE, on Fayetteville street, second door South of Pomeroy's Bookstore. Sign of the CONFEDERATE FLAG.

## The Legislature.

This body met in adjourned session yesterday. Never did a body of men represent vaster interests. Never did a body of representatives more solemn and imposing circumstances.

Do they comprehend their responsibilities? Are they alive to the situation of the country? Do they take in, in its full comprehension, the hour—its emergencies, its duties and responsibilities? The fate of the nation, and along with that the destiny of the commonwealth, not merely for weal or woe, but for actual existence, is suspended in the balance. A conflict rages, baffling the powers of description. Our invader has collected his strength in full force—in one concentrated effort to crush us. Day after day his cohorts, numerous and renewed, stimulated by promises of plunder and malediction by intoxicating drink, are hurled in solid mass upon our lines, which alone stand between us and the rushing flood.

Never was discipline displayed more perfect. Never courage more exalted; never patriotism more enduring; never confidence more encouraging, than have these qualities been exhibited by our soldiers since the commencement of this mortal fray.

But human nature is mortal and wears out. Soldiers are made of flesh and muscle and sinew and nerve; and these become exhausted. The same men cannot labor all the time. They must have repose. Their places must be supplied, while they can rest. Up to this time they have nobly, proudly, heroically endured, labored and fought. Again and again have we urged upon the authorities the paucity of their numbers. Constantly have we persuaded, advised, implored, that out of the useless material now encumbering our streets and country, assistance in their hard duties might be furnished to them.

Often have we repeated, that common justice as well as policy and duty, demanded that the local offices should be diminished, and the hundreds of idle hands, who have enjoyed protection and struck no blow during this war; and especially the pernicious mischief-makers, who have aided the enemy; should be compelled to go and earn some right and title to the liberty, which is to be ours if we succeed, or become honored by a legitimate association with our doom, if we fail.

And we have alluded so distinctly to many of these classes, that some persons have taken individual offence, and have withdrawn from us their personal offices of politeness; and some have even shown us their frowns, and yet others have ventured (behind our backs) their threats. What care we for this manifestation of petty rage? They pass us as the barking of curs. We are in the discharge of a high, sacred, solemn duty to society and to our country. We engage in no personal allusions for any thing short of the service and national interests. For these we are willing to risk all perils—from Yankees in front, or their allies on the flank and rear.

The men who have done nothing—borne no inconvenience—suffered no hardship—braved no danger, performed no service, and who are not now more useful at home—ought to go and meet the enemy, and relieve our severely taxed soldiers. And they ought to be made to do so. Such men as the officers of the Home Guard, Militia, Officers, Justices of the Peace, Mayors and Commissioners of cities, Constables, etc. bureau men, and all the like. We mean to include in our remarks every man whose place can be supplied here at home by one equally useful, who is disabled from active service—particularly do we mean to include such men as Mr. Holden, who, by his teaching, example and legislative action, produced this war, and pledged its prosecution, and who has shamefully abandoned his pledge, and is now imposing on the State his selfish pretensions to place, to the disgrace and contempt of respectable and worthy men who look with amazement on the anomaly of this individual strife in the midst of the nation's agony! Of all men in the Confederacy, does Mr. W. W. Holden deserve a place among "the soldiers and the bayonets?"

And now let this Legislature, if it would abate past errors and attain to some credit for ability and worth, rise above the pitiful objects of party, and act for the country. Let it diminish exemptions, so as to furnish to the service every available man. Make but one rule and observe it. Whoever is able to go, and would be more useful by going, make him go.

And let the two bodies set the example—Such of them as can do more in the field, let them keep out of the canvas this summer, and go to the Rapidan; and by all means take the straight-out conservative Mr. Holden and John, the social, as "Joy" calls him, and the co-owner, now candidate, and the whole gentleman along with them. In deciding on their own usefulness, members are suggested to make the public the judges, and not sit on their own merits.

By all means cut down the list of "stay at home." This legitimate duty will be better than any nonsense on *habeas corpus*.

## The News.

Up to the hour of writing this notice, (7 o'clock, P. M.) we are without any Press dispatches from Richmond or Petersburg; nor did we receive yesterday any newspaper from either of those places. But the streets have been teeming with rumors of one sort and another, most of which are wild and improbable, and worthy of being put in print.

But in the absence of the much coveted direct information from the cities above named, we have intelligence from Yankee sources, which admits that Grant had lost, up to the instant, twenty-seven thousand men, ten thousand of whom had been defeated in all his engagements with Gen.

If the Yankees admit this much, we may be sure his losses greatly exceed the number stated, and that he has sustained defeat and disaster beyond computation almost.

Advice comes in from nearly every quarter, confirming the news of Banks' surrender, with the entire army, to Gen. Dick Taylor—so we think this may be regarded as a fact.

We expect other and most cheering news from points whence it is most anxiously looked for, before going to press. Heaven grant it may be of victory final and complete to our worn and tried veteran troops—God bless them.

P. S.—As we anticipated when the above was written, we are in receipt of the most glorious news from Gen. Beauregard near Petersburg, and from Gen. Lee's army—for which see Telegraphic Head. And we think we have inklings which justify us in believing that this is but the beginning of the glorious tidings we shall receive of the operations in Gen. Lee's army within the last few days, as well as our armies around Petersburg, Richmond and every where else. God be praised for His mercies and blessings.

## Mr. Holden's Question and Our Answer.

Mr. Holden asks in "The Standard" of yesterday, 17th: "Cannot Col. McRae be prevailed upon to take a bayonet?" We answer, yes; easily. If Mr. Holden will go with us, a private soldier, to the army of Beauregard, Lee, or Johnston, we will join him.

He may select the regiment and company, and we will leave in twenty-four hours after his acceptance of our proposition. And we will give bond and security, to go as near to the enemy and stay as long as he does. And Gov. Vance will furnish enough blockade brandy to relieve against "depression"—we shall not need any.

Can Mr. Holden be prevailed on?

The two Houses of the General Assembly convened in the Capitol yesterday—a quorum in both branches being present. The proceedings will be found in another column.

The Governor's Message was handed in at 2 o'clock, and read. It is quite lengthy. We could not procure a copy for insertion to-day. We shall probably be able to do so in time for to-morrow's issue.

We call the public attention to the pieces of revolutionary history as introduced in the communication of "WASHINGTON."

If our legislators are not above learning from our fathers lessons of wisdom, they will heed the example and make their ideas of "peace negotiation" consistent with good sense and practicality.

[For the Confederates.

## Peace on the Principles of 1776.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—We are all in favor of peace—and all in favor of negotiation in the proper way and at the proper time. We believe that a vigorous prosecution of this war, so entirely *defensive* on our part, is the best mode to open the way for negotiation and thus secure the blessings of peace. But as there seems to be some confusion of ideas, if not perversions of facts on this subject, especially in regard to the course pursued in our Revolutionary struggle, we commend to the public the following extract from the reply of the continental Congress to the Commissioners sent by England to bring about a reconciliation with the Colonies, who had declared their Independence, and had been waging a war for three years to maintain it.—See *Diary of the Revolution*, vol. 2, page 63.

"1775"—"JUNE 17.—This day the Congress agreed to an answer to the letters and inclosures sent to them by the Commissioners lately arrived at Philadelphia, to treat of reconciliation, of which the following is an extract:

"The acts of the British Parliament, the commission from your sovereign, and your letter,

"suppose the people of these States to be subjects of the Crown of Great Britain, and are founded on the idea of dependence, which is utterly inadmissible. I am further

"directed to inform your excellencies, that Congress are inclined to peace, notwithstanding the unjust claims from which this war originated, and the savage manner in which it hath been conducted. They will

"therefore be ready to enter upon the consideration of a treaty of peace and commerce, not inconsistent with treaties already subsisting, when the King of Great Britain shall demonstrate a sincere disposition for that purpose. The only solid proof of this disposition will be an explicit acknowledgement of the independence of these States, or the withdrawing of his fleets and armies."

This reply was drawn by a committee of the Congress, adopted and signed by the President. Smythe, (loyalist or Tory) in his Diary for July 1st, in noting this decision of the Congress, says: "What next? That school of impudence and ingratitude, the Congress, even refuse to listen to the proposals of the Commissioners, and say 'all the British fleets and armies be withdrawn, we will not treat.' Clinton soon will bring them to their senses by hanging the leader higher than Haman's topknot and setting the dunes upon the stoops of repentance."

It will be remembered, too, that this determination of Congress was made during the gloomiest period of the Revolution. But they were unmoved, and finally under Divine Providence, through the valor of our armies and the endurance of the people, our noble and patriotic ancestors achieved the Independence of the United States. Negotiations followed closely. It went in the rear and not in front of our armies. There was no spirit of subversion, but firm resolve to resist to the death, till Liberty and Independence were gained and established. History repeat itself. What was then, will be again. We may still have to suffer much—sacrifice much of blood and anguish, treasure and privation—but the end is sure. God will not permit a righteous cause to fail, if we are true to ourselves. A glorious triumph awaits our arms—an honorable peace will follow—and we shall be free.

WASHINGTON.

## STATE LEGISLATURE.

### Senate.

TUESDAY, May 17, 1864.

The Senate met to-day in adjourned session, Mr. Spain or McRae presiding. Prayer by Dr. Dow, of the M. E. Church.

The following members were present:

Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Adams, of Davidson, Pendell, Aycock, Bayley, Berry, Dickson, Ellis, Faison, Gandy, Harris, of Franklin, Harris, of Rutherford, Holden, Jarrell, Jones, Lanister, Leitch, Lindsey, Neal, Outlaw, Pendleton, Pritchett, Shadrack, Shippard, Taylor, of Nash, Warren, Whitford, Wiggins, Young, &c.

A quorum answering to their names, on motion, the House of Commons was informed.

A message was received from the House of Commons informing the Senate that a quorum of that body was present, and prepared for the dispatch of public business.

On motion of Mr. Simpson, a resolution was adopted to name a joint committee of both Houses, to wait on His Excellency, the Governor, and inform him that both Houses were ready to receive any communication which he had to make.

The House of Commons concurring, the following gentlemen were appointed on said committee by the Senate, viz: Messrs. Simpson and Jones.

Mr. Berry, of Orange, was appointed in the place of Hon. W. A. Graham, on the finance committee.

On motion, adjourned till to-morrow, 10 o'clock, A. M.

### House of Commons.

TUESDAY, May 17.

The House was called to order by Mr. Speaker Donnell at 11 o'clock.

The roll was called and a quorum appeared—sixty-nine answering to their names.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd, it was ordered that a message be sent to the Senate, informing that body of the organization of the House and its readiness to execute any joint orders.

Mr. Leathers, member elect from Orange, and Mr. Reinhardt, member elect from Catawba, appeared and were qualified.

On motion of Mr. Grissom, leave of absence granted to the Principal Clerk for several days.

A message was received from the Senate, announcing the organization of that body, and proposing to name a joint select committee, consisting of two on the part of each House, to wait upon His Excellency the Governor, and receive such communication as he might desire to make to the General Assembly.

The House concurred in the proposition, and the Speaker appointed Messrs. Shepherd and Shober the House branch of said committee.

Mr. Shepherd from the joint committee of the two Houses, reported that they had waited upon His Excellency, and that he would transmit a written message to the General Assembly at 12 o'clock.

The reading of the Governor's Message and documents occupied the residue of the session.

On motion of Mr. Shepherd, the message with accompanying documents was ordered to be transmitted to the Senate with a proposition to print the same.

Mr. Russell of Brunswick, was appointed to fill the vacancy on the joint committee of finance, occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Berry.

On motion of Mr. Ayers, the House adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

### The Fort Pillow affair—Refutation of Yankee Slanders.

From Gov. Isham Harris, of Tennessee, who accompanied, and has recently reached Atlanta, in return from the expedition of Forrest into West Tennessee, the *Confederacy* newspaper obtains the following true version of the late attack upon Fort Pillow.

In view of the perverted accounts of the Yankee papers, this official narrative of the whole proceeding will be found as interesting as it is necessary.

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